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CITY OF ASTORIA OREGON
FOUNDED · 1811

February 5, 1986

COPY

R. Dale Collins, District Manager
Pacific Power and Light Co.
Astoria, OR 97103

Dear Mr. Collins:

On Saturday, April 12, 1986, the City of Astoria will celebrate the 175th anniversary of the founding of Fort Astoria. A committee* appointed by Mayor Edith Henningsgaard and chaired by Greater Astoria Chamber of Commerce manager Sue Casberg is planning appropriate activities including costumes, balloons, cake and punch, banners, etc. It hopes very much to unveil an attractive sign or monument identifying Fort Astoria's Tidal Rock.

The Tidal Rock is located on the northwest corner of the double lot on which the PP&L substation is located on the southwest corner of 15th and Commercial. Fortunately, the construction of neither the sidewalk chairwall nor the substation damaged the rock. It was identified by George H. Himes, secretary of the Oregon Historical Society in July 1908. At that time, it was in the tideflat under the Johnson Fruit and Cigar Store which burned in the Great Fire of 1922. The rock is exposed to view,

Not being a navigator, I did not at first know what a tidal rock is. It seems that as a ship approaches an anchorage, its pilot needs to know whether the tide is coming in or going out so he knows how close to shore he can safely anchor. Evidently, there was a horizontal line carved on the north side of Tidal Rock to show where high tide was likely to be. It would be interesting to have a surveyor tell us how far below the top of that rock the line might still be found, although we suppose digging would undermine Highway 30, so we doubt that our curiosity will be satisfied.

We are extremely fortunate to have a physical presence of an important part of the day-to-day activities at Fort Astoria 175 years ago. The Tidal Rock should be given almost the same reverance as Plymouth Rock in Plymouth, Massachusettes. The site is shown as part of the walking tour given by Astoria Downtown Development Association.

The anniversary committee hopes that PP&L will assist in this community event in the following ways:

1. Apply for the site to be officially designated as a Historic Landmark by signing the enclosed blue application and returning it to me.

2. Improve the appearance of the vacant half-lot or authorize our committee, which is underfunded, to do so before April 12. I feel we can find a volunteer to keep the place tidy---perhaps a future resident of the John Jacob Astor Apartments. PP&L may wish to consider gifting a visual easement to the Historic Preservation League of Oregon for a tax deduction. An important element of the site, I think is the remaining portion of the west foundation wall of the Johnson Fruit and Cigar Shop.

3. Erect a suitable monument, probably on the sidewalk. I attended the dedication of your monument at 75 W. Marine Drive, the location of Trullinger's electric generator. Perhaps the same sort of monument could be installed.

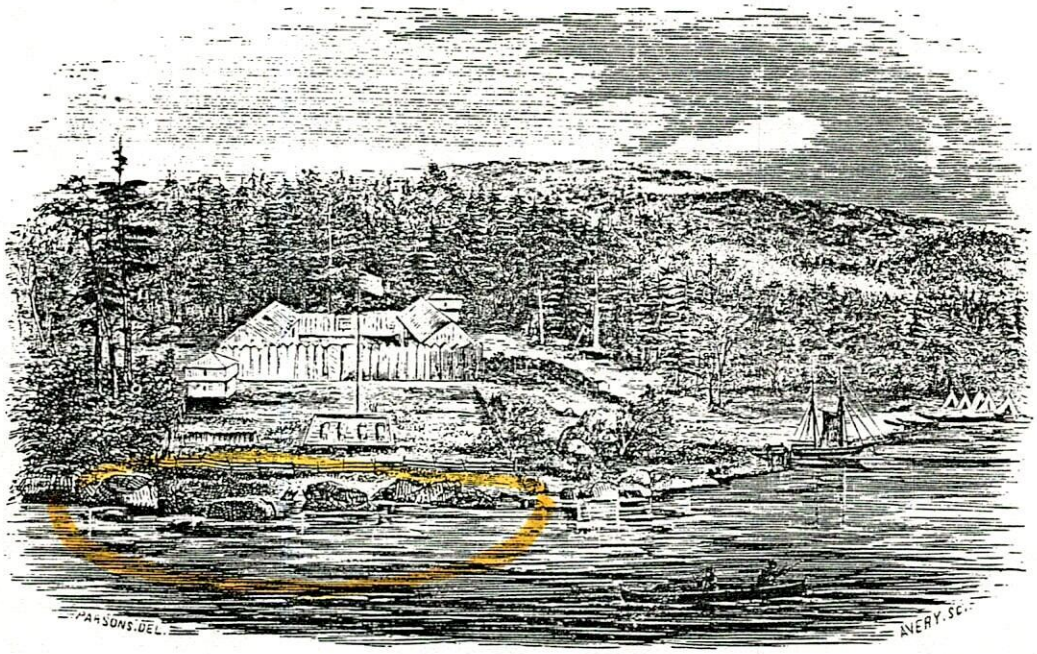
4. Schedule your company officials to be present for the unveiling of the monument. We plan for full media coverage.

If these ideas meet with the approval of your company, we expect this to be the centerpiece of this community celebration. The monument and the rock will be a permanent enhancement of the historic interest due Astoria by tourists and historians.

Sincerely,

Bruce Berney, Secretary
Historic Buildings and Sites Commission

* Committee members include: Mayor Edith Henningsgaard,; Chamber of Commerce manager Sue Casberg; Dr. Stephen Recken, Clatsop County Historical Society; Michael Naab, Columbia River Maritime Museum; Susan Kemph, Astoria Downtown Development Association; Jim Krettler, City of Astoria Parks Dept., and Bruce Berney, Astoria Public Library director and HBSC secretary.



ASTORIA, AS IT WAS IN 1813.

Astoria Public Library

general animation, and the festivities
d dance at night, by the Canadians

oria, by the route travelled by Hunt and
s, though in a direct line it does not

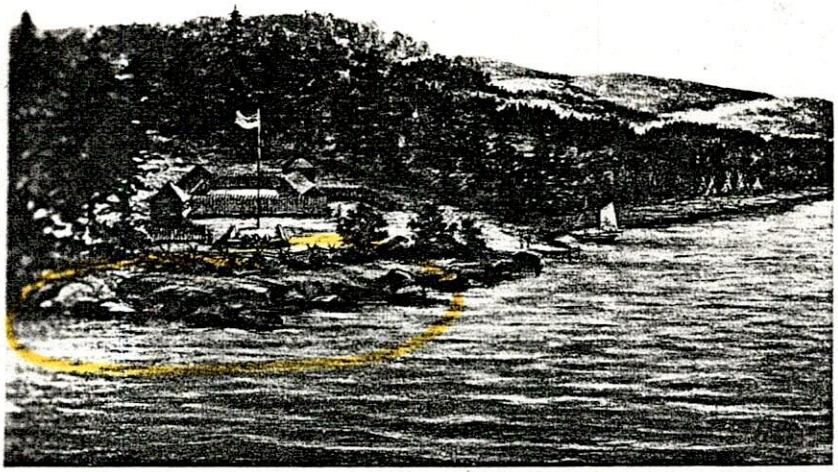


Figure 1. Astoria in 1811, from the Tacoma edition of *Astoria* (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1897).

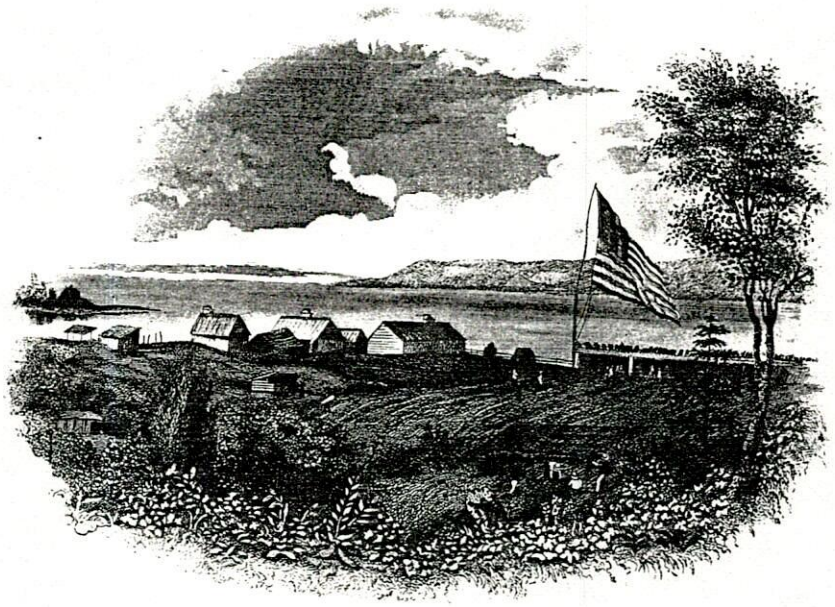


Figure 2. Astoria, from an engraving reproduced in the Geoffrey Crayon edition of *Astoria* (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1868).

Astoria Daily Budget, Thursday, July 30, 1908

HISTORIC POINTS TO BE MARKED

Old Shark Rock and Other Places of Interest

George H. Himes, secretary of the Oregon Historical Society, has been making a cruise of Clatsop county for the past few days taking views of the big trees and found a number, which Photographer Kiser took good pictures of. Mr. Himes is personally an enthusiast over the early history of Oregon and the exact location of the many historic spots and places that will soon be obliterated by the increasing advance of civilization and the absolute ignorance or carelessness of the people. He gave as an illustration that in 1849 the first flag of the United States was raised and saluted on the property now occupied by the new St. Mary's hospital. There is nothing to mark this and soon it will be forgotten although it was the first place that the flag was raised and saluted at the mouth of the Columbia. His especial interest was in the famous Shark Rock that has been entirely overlooked by except a few Astorians. This is located under the Nehalem House at the corner of Fourteenth and Exchange streets and now the property of A. B. Hammond. Its history is that the U. S. government gunboat Shark arrived off the mouth of the Columbia in the fall of 1846 and was wrecked coming in, a long board being saved and remained in Astoria during the following winter. One member of the crew was an expert worker in marking rock and saved his kit when the vessel was wrecked. During the winter months this man assisted in passing his time with cutting out on this rock a history of the wreck and the names of all those on board at the time. The rock is now much overgrown and impossible of being photographed but with a little attention it could be preserved. Mr. Himes suggest that the local historical organization take charge of the matter and if it does not he says that the state organization will and place it in a prominent site in Astoria. The wreck of the Shark has more than local interest as the day after the wreck the upper part of it floated away with eight brass cannon and finally went ashore south of the mouth of the Columbia river where it stranded and has been known since as Cannon beach. One of the cannon is still in existance there. Mr. Himes also examined the original tidal marks made on a rock at the corner of Fifteenth and Commercial streets, under the fruit and cigar store of L. I. Johnson. He found these to be in a state of preservation and almost obliterated and his opinin is that it was done by curiousity hunting vandals.

FORT ASTORIA (FORT GEORGE)

-E. M. Cherry has one of 6-pound guns from old Hudson Bay post here (Ft. George) AB 2-9-1933:1

-article on cannon now owned by E. M. Cherry AB 2-27-1933:4

-block from original Ft. Astoria to be given to Miss Leila McKay AB 12-15-33:1

-Chamber of Commerce plans marking of Ft. Astoria AB 9-10-35:1

FORT ASTORIA

-important historieal sites in the Pacific Northwest(special supplement) 5-29-75:3E

-first steps taken to reconstruct Astor's fur-trading fort 4-17-72:1

-original posts found in 1885 5-4-71:7

FORT ASTORIA (FORT GEORGE)

-city painting white lines on street at 15th & Duane to outline old Fort Astoria AB 7-25-36:1

-1805 coin found near Lovell garage (site of old Ft. Astoria), by Glen Hanson AB 9-22-36:1

-Junior Service Club to mark location of old Ft. Astoria AB 11-13-36:1

-Clatsop County willing to turn over Ft. Astoria corner to city for park AB 4-2-40:1

See Map 8 9 8DB

FORT ASTORIA

-J. William Welch, purchases lots (TWA) 9-16-1873:1
-N. Koefoed finds old bayonet on site (DA) 5-15-1876:1
-Robert Carruthers building house on site (DA) 9-6-1883:3

FORT ASTORIA

-Judge J.Q.A. Bowlby writes article on site (ADB) 10-30-1903:3
-article on location of fort (ADB) 10-28-1903:4
-sketch of fort site appeared at Worlds Fair (ADB) 12-24-1904:10
-article on tidal rock at fort ADB 7-30-1908:5

FORT ASTORIA

-B. S. Worsley has piece of original wood from fort ADB 12-15-1910:5
-description ADB 2-16-1911:1
-article on founding of fort in 1811 ADB 3-27-1911:5
-Cannon ball from Ft. Astoria found at 14th and Exchange ADB 6-20-1911:6
-A. V. Anderson completes oil painting of old Fort Astoria ADB 7-22-1911:6
-photo of reproduction of fort built at city park ADB 8-12-1911:1

FORT ASTORIA CARD 2

-sketch of fort in 1911 ADB 8-11-1911:1
-photo of fort replica at city park ADB 7-25-1914:5
-Astoria Park Commission turns over replica in Astoria city park to Astoria boy scouts for headquarters ADB 2-7-1917:2
-replica of fort at city park turned over to Boy Scouts for quarters ADB 7-12-1917:6

FORT ASTORIA

-replica in Astoria City Park being torn down; rotted AB 9-16-1920:5
-D.A.R. to put up bronze tablet at site of old Fort AB 6-12-1924:3
-D.A.R. to place bronze marker on S.W. corner of city hall lawn to mark location of old Fort Astoria AB 8-19-1924:1
-D.A.R. receives permission to place bronze tablet AB 9-16-1924:7

FORT ASTORIA CARD 2

-D.A.R. dedicates bronze tablet on city hall lawn marking Ft. Astoria site AB 10-6-1924:1
-ancient tombstone found east of Astoria city hall; dates from early Ft. Astoria (under present day armory) AB 4-12-1927:1

FORT ASTORIA

-workers on St. Marys new hospital uncover parts of old fort AB 10-20-1930:1
-more relics found at St. Mary's Hospital excavation AB 10-21-1930:1
-historians interested in relics finds AB 10-25-1930:1
-L. M. Clarke writes letter on finding of Fort AB 10-25-1930:4

FORT ASTORIA (FORT GEORGE)

-drawing of fort in 1815 received by Judge Buchanan; complete description of fort AB 4-18-1931:1
-site fixed definitely AB 4-20-1931:1
-Mrs. R. K. Booth wins silver cup for essay on Ft. George AB 6-26-1931:3
-Judge J. A. Buchanan tells location of old Ft. George (Ft. Astoria) AB 10-4-1932:1
-Astoria HS students want to place marker on site AB 11-3-1932:1

& CO'S

son & Morrison), bds

ontr 237 3d, res same.
Astoria Iron Wks, bds

k Fisher Bros Co, bds

nson, bds 643 Com-

her Bros Co, res 1641

ds 190 Flavel.
ia Box Co, res 194

ne Dairy Co, rms 188

n, res nr Hanthorn's

ıtral Meat Market,

res 319 Taylor av.
annen Uutiset, res

Phonograph Co),
same.
storia Elec Co, res

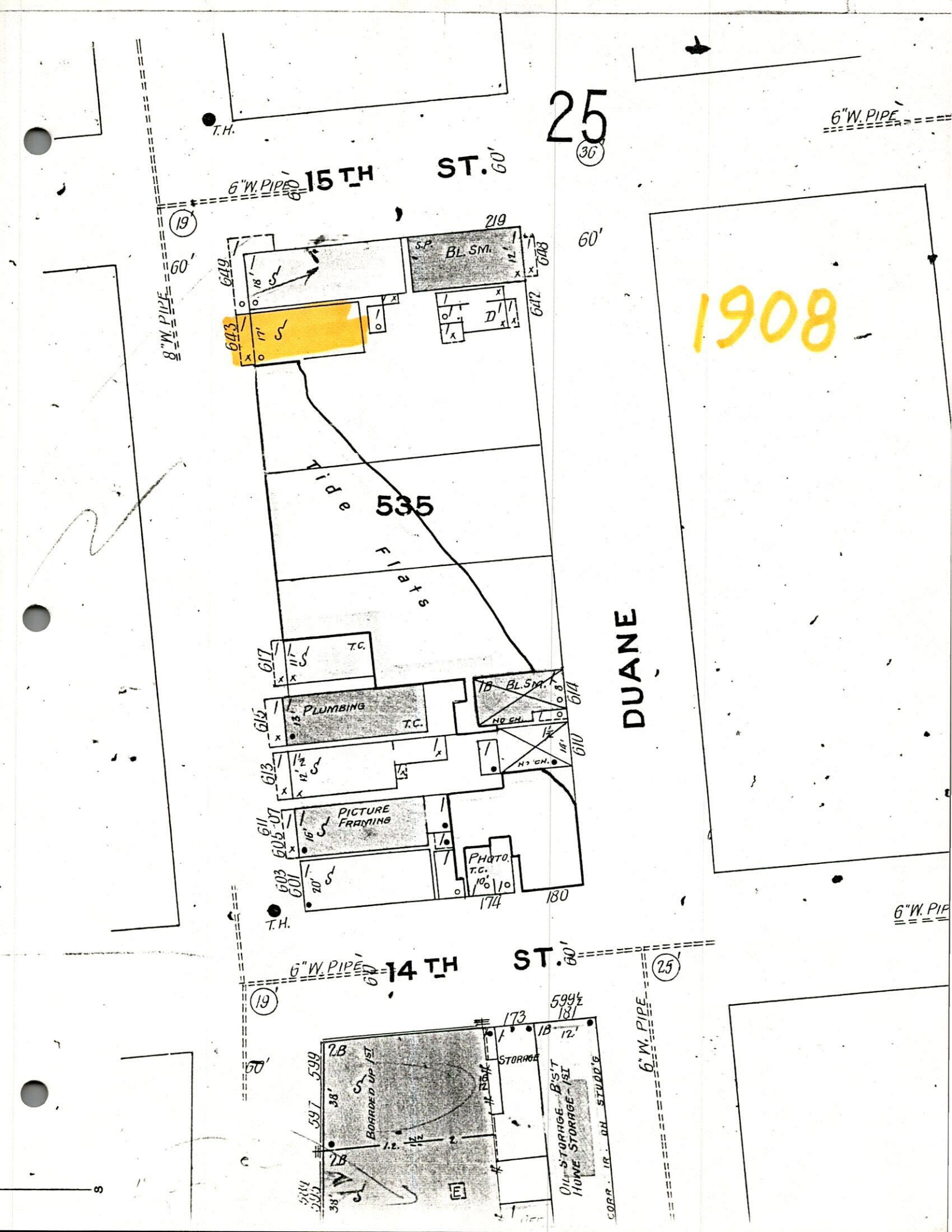
& C R R Co, res A

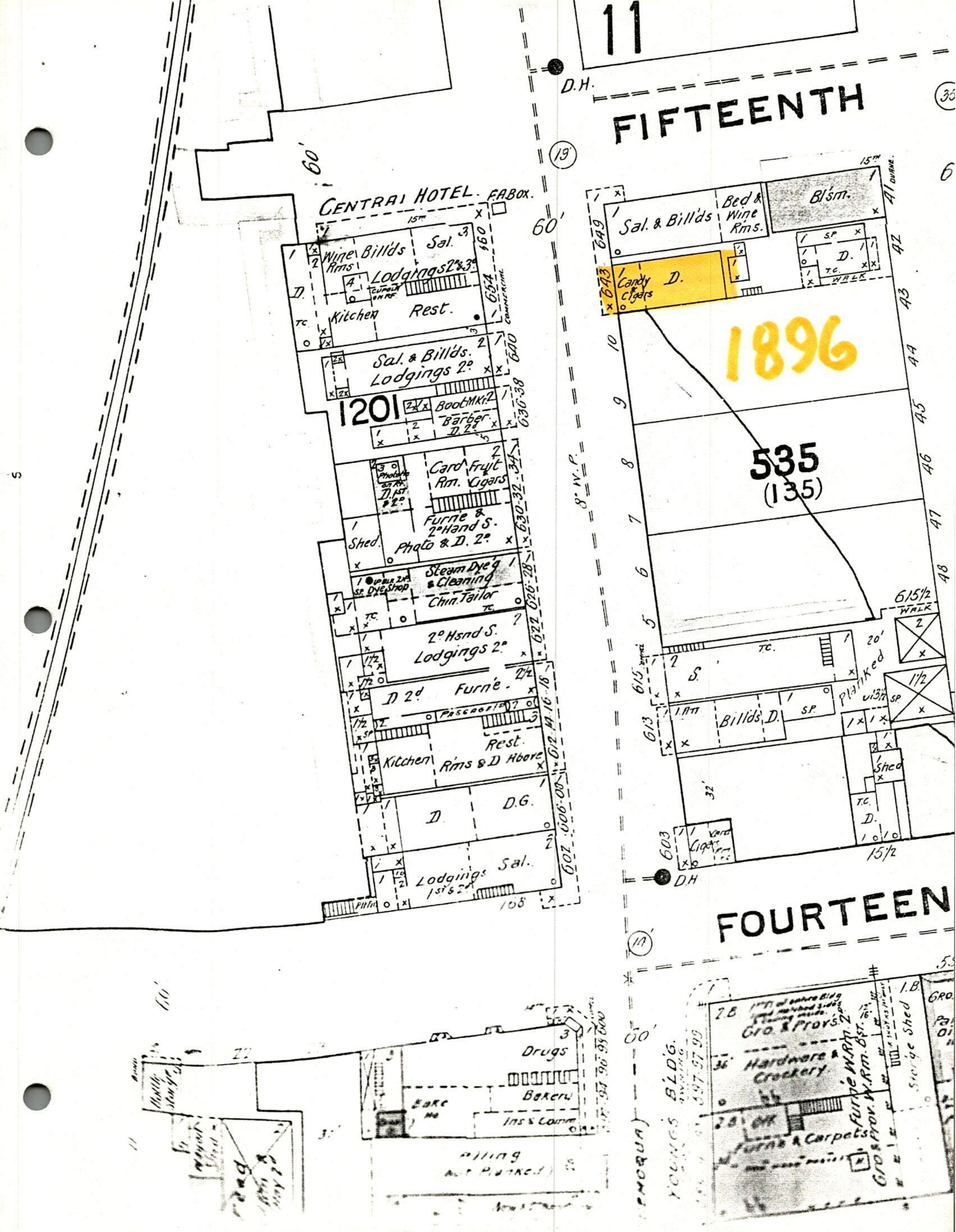
nook.
roy Laundry, bds 25

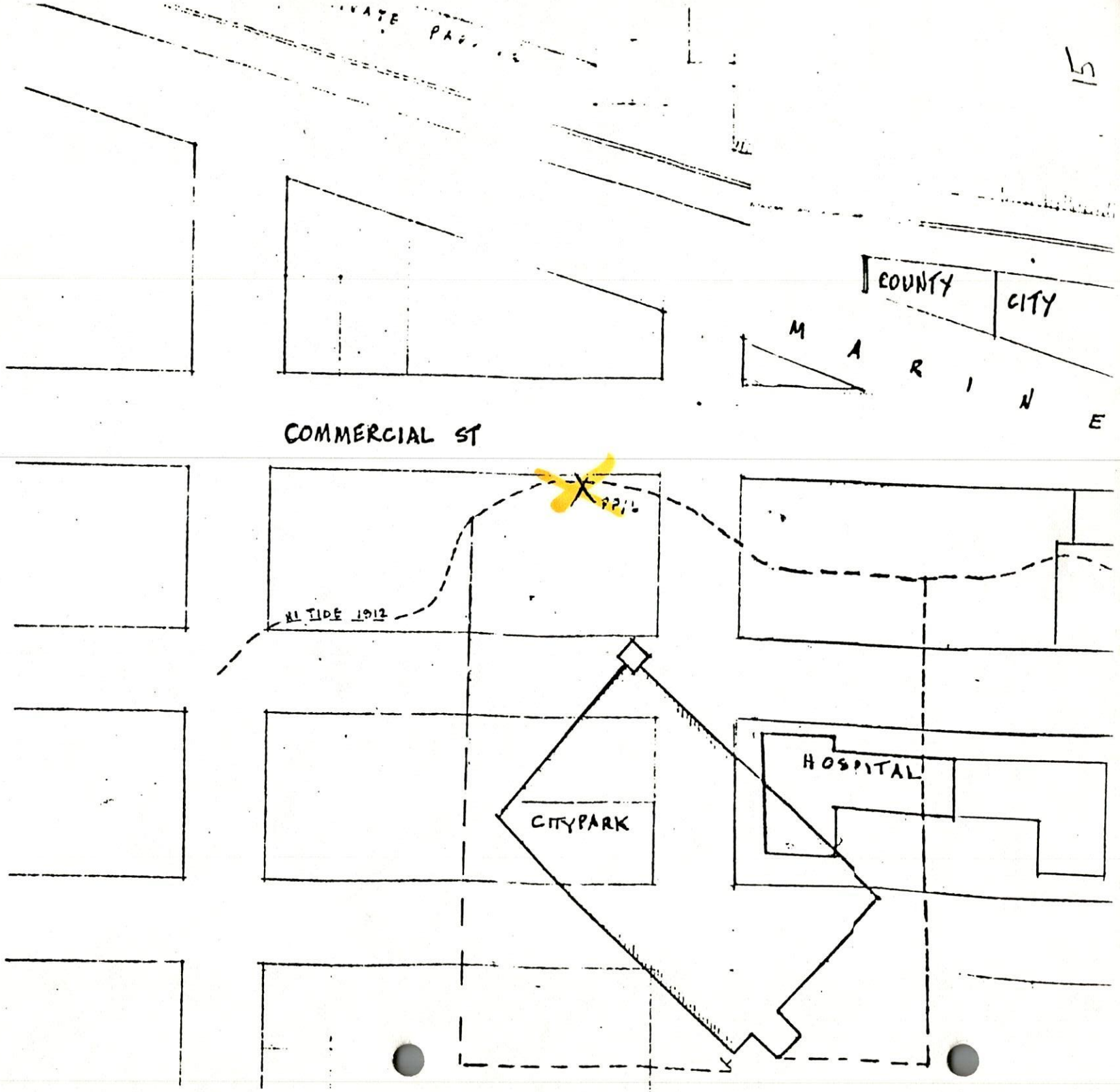
70 Birch.
vn Jr, bds 341 18th.
ange.

1908

Johnson James, fisherman, res ft 47th.
Johnson James J, sec Zapf Furniture & Hdw Co, res 54 Exchange.
Johnsen John, deck hand U S Quar stmr Electro.
Johnson John, fisherman, res 311 Alameda av.
Johnson John, lab, bds 1438 Grand av.
Johnson John, lab, res 1901 Franklin av.
Johnson John E, trav agt, res Duane s w cor 13th.
Johnson John F A, fisherman, res Tongue Point.
Johnson John K, fireman Astoria Elec Co, res 392 Alameda av.
Johnson John L, res 593 Harrison av.
Johnson John R, tallyman Clatsop Mill Co, bds 1661 Grand av.
Johnson John S, boat bldr T L Driscoll, res 167 Harrison av.
Johnson Jorgen, res 1625 Franklin av.
Johnson Jylja, dom, bds 190 Flavel.
Johnson J Nestor, lab, bds 311 Alameda av.
Johnson K Albert, sec Acme Grocery Co, res 565 Grand av.
Johnson K Fred, mngr Acme Dairy Co, res 369 Commercial.
Johnson Lawrence, plumber, bds 643 Commercial.
Johnson Mrs Lena, cook Bay View Hotel.
Johnson Leonard J, eng Astoria Elec Co, bds 325 29th.
Johnson Louis I, cigars 643 Commercial, res same.
Johnson Martin, carp, res 1825 Franklin av.
Johnson Martin, eng, res 75 5th.
Johnson Martin, lab, res 190 Flavel.


25
36
6"W. PIPE
T.H.
15TH ST.
60'
6"W. PIPE
19
60'
8"W. PIPE
219
S.P.
BL. SM.
648
649
643
642
1908
Tide Flats
535
DUANE
617
T.C.
615
PLUMBING
T.C.
1B
BL. SM.
614
NO CH.
610
613
PICTURE FRAMING
611
605-07
603
601
PHOTO.
T.C.
174
180
T.H.
6"W. PIPE
14TH ST.
60'
25
19
599½
181
173
1B
12'
STORAGE
2B
599
597
BOARDED UP 1ST
38'
OIL STORAGE B'S'T
HOME STORAGE - 1ST
CORR. IR. ON STUDD'G
6"W. PIPE
60'


11
D.H.
FIFTEENTH
19'
60'
CENTRAL HOTEL.
F.A.BOX.
Wine Rms
Bill'ds
Sal.
Lodgings 2º & 3º
Cupola on Rf.
Kitchen
Rest.
654
660
Commercial
Sal. & Bill'ds.
Lodgings 2º
640
1201
Boot Mkr.
Barber.
D. 2º
636-38
Card Rm.
Fruit & Cigars
Photo on Rf.
D. 1st & 2º
Furn.e & 2º Hand S.
Photo & D. 2º
Shed.
630-32-34
Steam Dye'g & Cleaning
Dye Shop
Chin. Tailor
626-28
2º Hand S.
Lodgings 2º
622
D 2d
Furn.e.
Passage
612-14-16-18
Kitchen
Rest.
Rms & D Above
D
D.G.
606-08
Lodgings 1st & 2d
Sal.
602
608
Sal. & Bill'ds
Bed & Wine Rms.
Bl'sm.
649
643
Candy & Cigars
D.
1896
535
(135)
8" W.P.
10
9
8
7
6
5
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
615½
Walk
20'
Planked
S.
T.C.
615
613
Bill'ds
D.
S.P.
Shed
32'
603
Cigars
15½
D.H.
FOURTEEN
14'
60'
Drugs
Bakery
Ins & Comm
Bake Ho
Youngs Bldg.
597-97-99
Gro. & Provs.
Hardware & Crockery
Furn.e & Carpets
Furn.e W. Rm. 2º
Gro. & Prov. W. Rm. Bst.
Storage Shed
1.B.
Gro.


COUNTY
CITY
M A R I N E
COMMERCIAL ST
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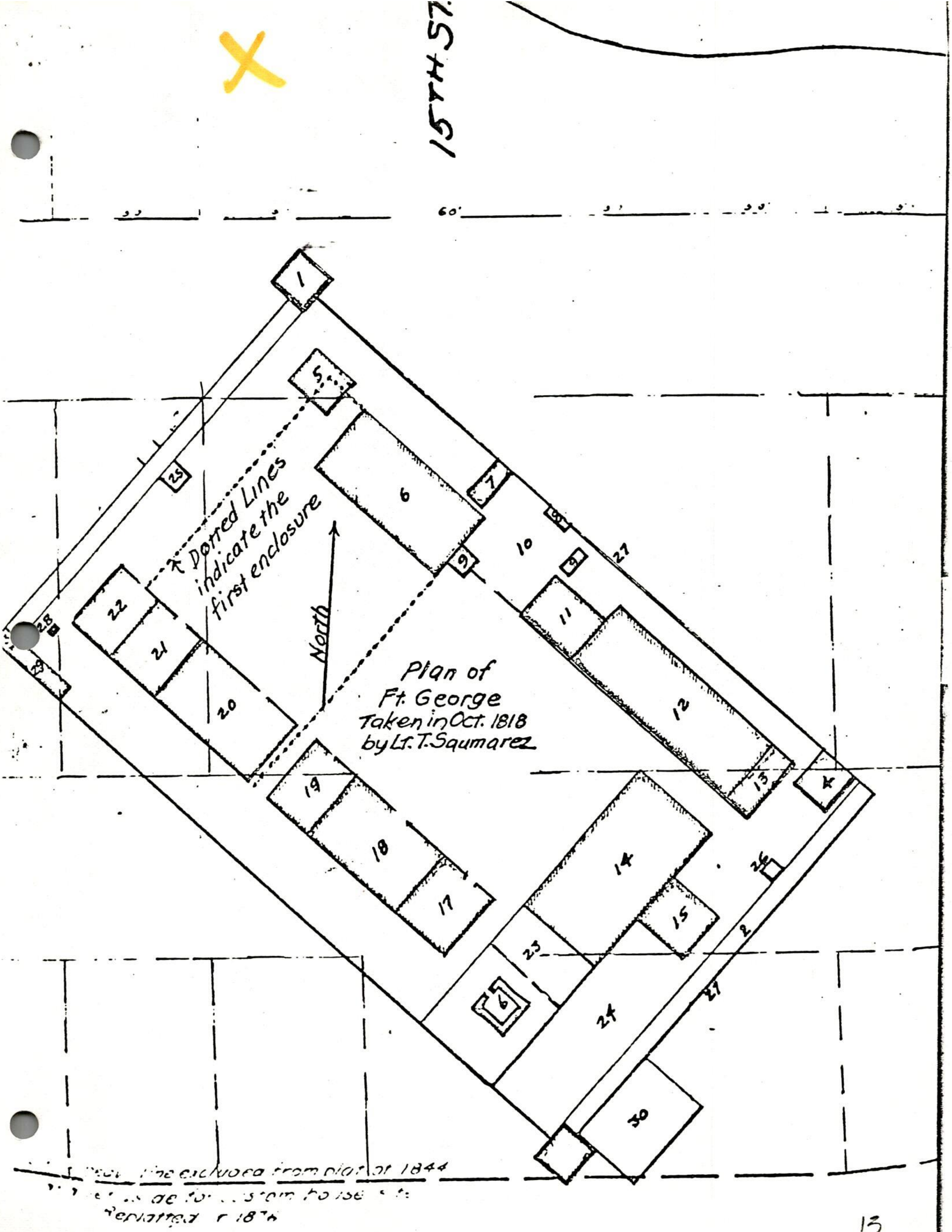
CITYPARK
HOSPITAL


15TH ST.
60'
Plan of
Ft. George
Taken in Oct. 1818
by Lt. T. Saumarez
Dotted Lines
indicate the
first enclosure
North
from plat of 1844

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CITY OF ASTORIA OREGON
FOUNDED · 1811

March 27, 1986

To: Jean Hallaux, City Planner

From: Bruce Berney, Secretary
Historic Buildings and Sites Commission

Re: Tidal Rock

Early artistic representations of Fort Astoria show a row of large rocks along the beach in front of the fort. One of them was known as Tidal Rock, because a horizontal line was chiseled to show where to expect high tide.

While indexing the old Astoria newspapers, Roger Tetlow discovered a report dated July 30, 1908, that George H. Himes, secretary of the Oregon Historical Society, had identified Fort Astoria's Tidal Rock under the Johnson Fruit and Cigar Store, which burned December 8, 1922. Library records show that the store was on the western half of the PP&L substation lot on the southwest corner of 15th & Commercial streets.

City Engineer Robert Nordlander has studied maps and estimates that the high tide line would be just below the surface of the sand fill which partially hides the rock. For fear of undermining the sidewalk, there are no plans to excavate to see the line. Besides, Mr. Himes stated that the rock was in a poor state of preservation and his opinion is that it was done by curiosity hunting vandals. The heat from the fire of 1922 also damaged the top of the rock.

Nevertheless, it is fortunate for us to have a landmark in plain view which was part of the workaday world of Fort Astoria 175 years ago. We are lucky that Dale Collins, local Pacific Power and Light Co. manager, has generously cooperated with the City of Astoria Historic Buildings and Sites Commission by applying for official historic designation for the tidal rock. In fact, the company will be supplying a monument which will be unveiled just before the City's 175th birthday party on April 12.

The HBSC unanimously recommends the Tidal Rock be designated a local historic site as per the minutes for the meeting on March 25, 1982.

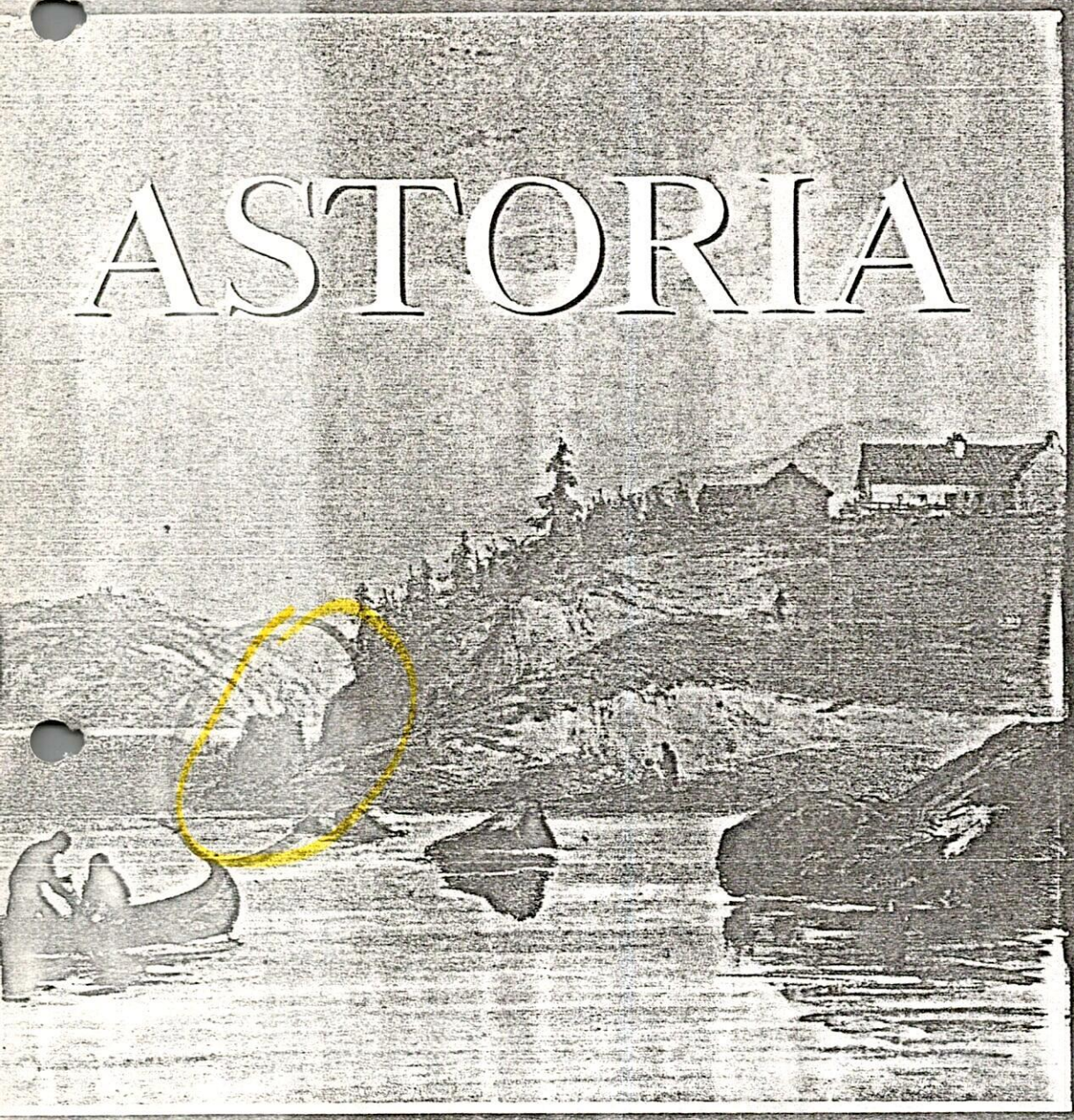
Sincerely,

Bruce Berney

Bruce Berney

cc: James M. Flint, City Manager

ASTORIA



or Anecdotes of an Enterprise
Beyond the Rocky Mountains

BY WASHINGTON IRVING

02.016.002